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DARFIELD

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER

FOR THE YEAR 1937.

WOMBWELL :
A. TAYLOR & SONS, LTD.
1938.



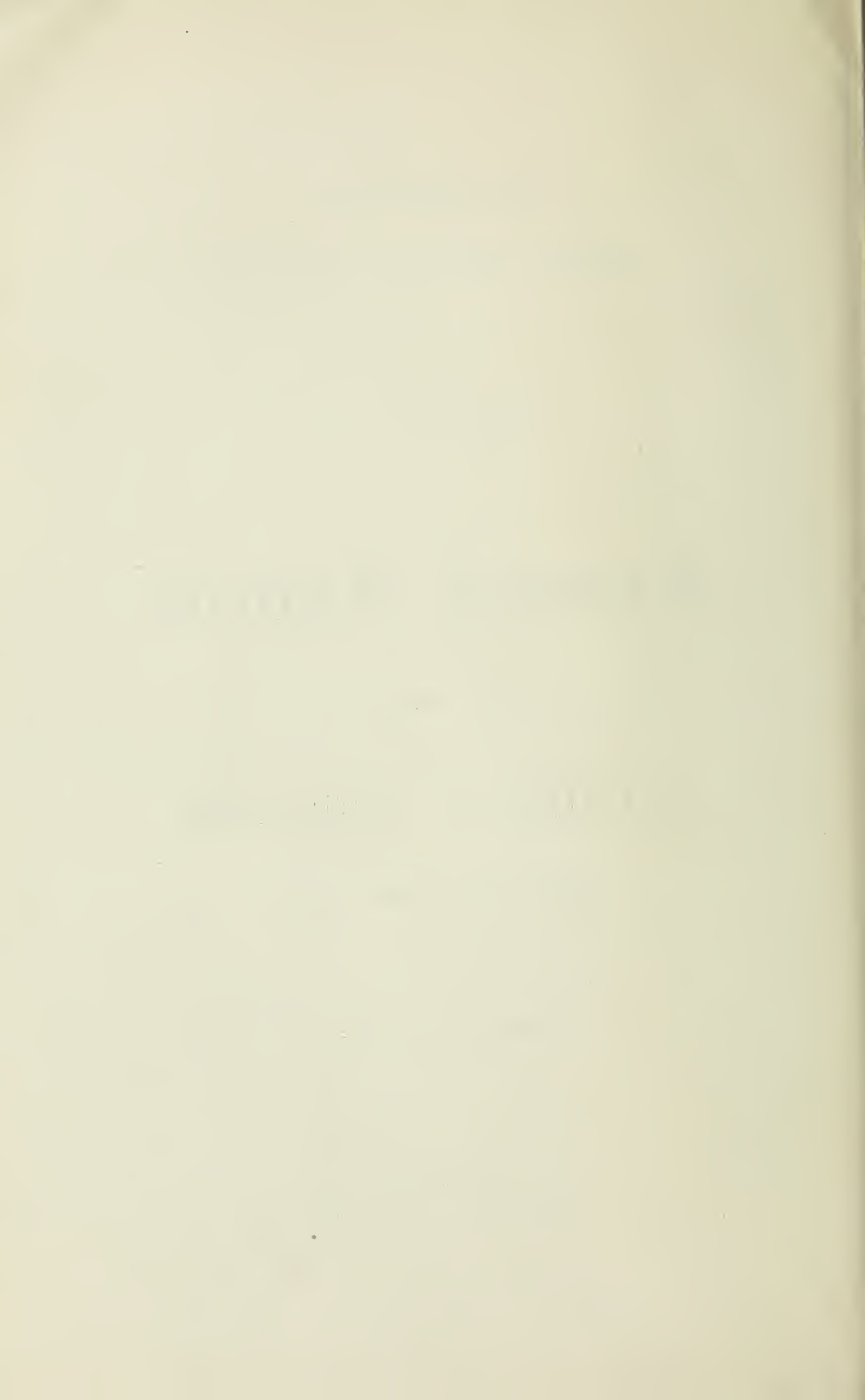
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Thornhill House,
DARFIELD,
Yorks.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in presenting to you my Annual Medical Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of your Urban District during the year 1937, together with an analysis of the vital statistics for the period under review.

In the early part of the year, the district was troubled by an extensive outbreak of epidemic influenza, fortunately of a fairly mild kind, although you will note that four of the deaths were attributed to influenza. Regarding other infectious diseases, we were in the happy position of having our 1936 diphtheria figures halved and those for scarlet fever reduced by more than 75%.

The big task of making all the houses in the district reasonably fit for human habitation was proceeded with slowly but surely. Residents must have noticed the number of property repairs and alterations which have been going on during the year.

Your district had one of the lowest crude death rates in the whole country, which must give you great satisfaction.

For the figures in connection with housing and general sanitation, I am indebted to your Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Whitehead, and it is appropriate that his painstaking and thorough work on housing inspection should receive tribute from my pen.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

J. W. WHITWORTH, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1937.

STATISTICS and SOCIAL CONDITIONS of the AREA.

Area.

The area of the district is 2,018 acres

Population:

The Registrar-General's estimate of the resident population for the middle of 1937 is 5,701.

Population:	1936	...	5,517
	1935	...	5,369
	1934	...	5,324

There was an increase in population of 184, representing a growth of 3·3 per cent, compared with 148 (2·7 per cent) in the previous year.

Inhabited Houses:

The number of inhabited houses at the end of 1937 was according to the rate books, 1600, (in 1936. 1,540).

Rateable Value and Sum represented by a Penny Rate:

Rateable Value	... ... ... ...	£19,497	0	0
Produce of a Penny Rate (gross)		£81	4	9

The rateable value has increased during the year by £257 and the produce of a penny rate from £80-3-4 to £81-4-9.

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS :

Live Births.		Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	... ..	48	54	102
Illegitimate	... ..	—	—	—
Totals	... ..	48	54	102

The birth rate per 1,000 estimated resident population
was 18·3

The birth rate per 1,000 England and Wales was 14·9.

In 1936 a total of 83 births gave a birth rate of 15·1 per 1,000, so that there was an increase in the birth rate of 3·2 per 1,000, a welcome change from the decreases of the previous two years.

STILL BIRTHS.

Still Births.		Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	... ..	2	4	6
Illegitimate	... ..	—	—	—
Totals	... ..	2	4	6

Still birth rate for Darfield per 1000 population ... 1·05

Still birth rate for England and Wales 0·60

Deaths:

Total number of deaths registered during 1937, 56.

Male deaths 30

Female deaths 26

This total is 6 less than in the previous year, and 1 less than in 1935.

TABLE 1.

Deaths from all causes in 1937.

Disease						Males	Females	Total
1.	Typhoid Fever	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
2.	Measles	...	...	...	...	1	—	—
3.	Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
4.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
5.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
6.	Influenza	...	...	...	...	3	1	4
7.	Encephalitis	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
8.	Cerebro-Spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
9.	Respiratory Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
10.	Other Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
11.	Syphilis	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
12.	General Paralysis of Insane	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
13.	Cancer	...	...	...	...	2	3	5
14.	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
15.	Cerebral Haemorrhage	...	...	...	...	2	2	4
16.	Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	6	9	15
17.	Aneurysm	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
18.	Other Circulatory Diseases	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
19.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
20.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	1	4	5
21.	Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
22.	Peptic Ulcer	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
23.	Diarrhoea (under two years)	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
24.	Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
25.	Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
26.	Other Liver Diseases	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
27.	Other Digestive Diseases	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
28.	Nephritis	...	...	...	...	2	1	3
29.	Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
30.	Other Puerperal conditions	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
31.	Congenital causes, etc.,	...	...	...	...	4	2	6
32.	Senility	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
33.	Suicide	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
34.	Other violence	...	...	...	...	2	—	2
35.	Other defined causes	...	...	...	...	2	—	2
26.	Ill-defined causes	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
TOTALS						30	26	56

Crude death rate per 1,000 for Darfield	...	9.8
Corrected death rate per 1,000 for Darfield	...	11.4
Corrected death rate for England and Wales per 1,000	... ..	12.4
Corrected death rate for Darfield, 1934	...	11.3
Corrected death rate for Darfield, 1935	...	11.7
Corrected death rate for Darfield, 1936	...	12.3
Corrected death rate for Darfield, 1937	...	12.4

Particulars of the causes of death are contained in Table 1.

Again the chief cause of death during the year was cardio-vascular disease (21 out of 56 deaths).

The number of deaths from cancer fell to 5. (17 deaths from cancer in 1935 and 9 in 1936).

There was a relatively large increase in the number of deaths from congenital causes.

Respiratory diseases caused 14 deaths, including 4 from influenza.

Maternal Mortality.

There was one death from puerperal causes in the year.

In England and Wales during 1937, the Maternal Mortality Rate was 3.23 per 1,000 live births.

Infantile Mortality.

There were 10 deaths of infants under the age of 1 year. Expressing this as a rate per 1,000 live births:

Infantile mortality rate for Darfield	... ..	97
Infantile mortality rate for England and Wales		58

The increase in the Infantile Mortality Rate is largely accounted for by the incidence of 6 deaths from congenital causes, over which we have little or no control.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Public Health Officers.

Medical Officer of Health (part time) :

Dr. J. W. WHITWORTH, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

District Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator :

Dr. J. W. WHITWORTH, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer, Child Welfare Centre :

Dr. J. W. WHITWORTH, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer, Ante-Natal Clinic :

Dr. MARY BOYD, M.B., Ch.B.

Sanitary Inspector :

S. E. WHITEHEAD, C.R.S.I.

Surveyor :

S. E. WHITEHEAD, C.R.S.I.

Health Visitor :

Miss MINDHAM, S.R.N., C.M.B.

(resigned May, 1938).

Laboratory Facilities.

During the year adequate use was made of the facilities provided by the County Council Laboratory at Wakefield for the examination of pathological specimens.

Home Nursing.

The Voluntary Nursing Association continues to provide the services of a fully qualified nurse for the sick nursing of such of its members as may need her attention. May I take this annual opportunity of urging your electors to join this very worthy association?

Ambulance Facilities.

These remain the same and whilst at the moment they may be thought to be reasonably adequate, I feel the day is approaching when we should consider having our own township ambulance.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

The County Council provides the following facilities :

Clinic.	Situation.
Infant Welfare Centre	Wesleyan Church School Barnsley Road, Darfield. Each Wednesday, 2-0 - 4-0 p.m.
Ante-Natal Clinic	Wesleyan Church School, Barnsley Road, Darfield. Second Friday in each month, 2-0 - 5-30 p.m.
School Clinic	Wesleyan Church School Barnsley Road, Darfield.
Tuberculosis Clinic	Dispensary, 46 Church Street, Barnsley. Wednesdays 10-0 a.m. and 2-0 p.m. Fridays 10-0 a.m.
Venereal Diseases Clinic	Barnsley.
Diphtheria Immunisation	Held at the Schools when required, and at the Child Welfare Centre.

Hospitals.

Surgical :	Sheffield Royal Infirmary. Sheffield Royal Hospital. Barnsley Beckett Hospital. Leeds General Infirmary. Sheffield Childrens' Hospital.
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Medical :	As above.
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Maternity :	Jessop Hospital, Sheffield. Montagu Hospital, Mexborough.
Infectious Diseases :	Kendray Isolation Hospital.
Tuberculosis :	County Council Sanatoria.
Mental Diseases :	County Council Mental Hospitals.
Chronic Sick :	St. Helen's Hospital, Barnsley.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water :

Water is supplied and distributed by the Dearne Valley Water Board. The whole of the houses in the district are now on supply. During the year there was a plentiful supply of good quality water of which the only fault, in my opinion, was the moderately high degree of hardness.

Rivers and Streams : No action has been taken.

Closet Accommodation: During the year 12 privies were re-constructed as water closets. All the newly erected houses were provided with water closets.

Scavenging : Household refuse is disposed of by means of a system of controlled tipping which works well in practice. The total cost of the collection and disposal of the refuse during the year was £690.

Drainage and Sewerage: During 1937, 350 yards of sewer was laid to meet the requirements of new houses. There was no extensions made to the sewage disposal works which continues to function well.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area :

Total number of inspections made in 1937 for nuisances only	... ..	870
Nuisances found in 1937	... ..	4
Nuisances abated	... ..	4
Notices served, informal	... ..	4
Notices complied with	... ..	4
Outstanding at the end of 1937	... ..	Nil.

Schools: No action taken during the year.

HOUSING.**I. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year :**

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts	... ..	75
(b) Number of inspection made for the purpose		75
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	... ..	26
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose		26
(3) Number of dwelling houses needing further action		49
(a) Number considered to be in a state so injurious to health or dangerous as to be unfit for human habitation	... ..	—
(b) Number (excluding those in sub-head (a) above) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	... ..	49

II. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices :

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or its Officers	26
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III. Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

(A) Proceedings under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served required repairs	49
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices	49
(a) By owners	49
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil

(B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	2
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices	2
(a) By Owners	2
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil.

(C) Proceedings under Sections 11^a and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of representations, etc., made in respect of dwelling houses unfit for human habitation	Nil.
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil.
(3) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders (Orders made in previous year).	3

(D) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

There being in the district no separate tenements or underground rooms, the proceedings taken were	Nil.
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IV. Unhealthy Areas.

Nil for the year 1937.

V. Number of New Houses erected during 1937:

(a) By the Local Authority	...	...	...	...	Nil.
(b) By private enterprise	...	...	...	...	4

VI. Housing Conditions.

Compared with the previous year, house building in 1937 was of very small extent. The year under survey was a "marking time" period between the activity of slum clearance and that of relieving overcrowding. In 1938 we have gone a fair way towards providing alternative accommodation for residents who were occupying overcrowded houses, and it appears as if house building by the Local Authority will at least temporarily be halted. What remains to be done is the task of bringing the older houses in the district up to a standard which shall ensure that they shall be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk: Carried out by the West Riding County Council.

There are in force in the area :

- (1) One licence for the production of Grade "A" Tuberculin Tested Milk.
- (2) Two licences for production of Grade "A" Accredited Milk.

The milk analyses during the year were satisfactory.

There are nine registered cow-keepers in the district, whose cow-sheds are satisfactory and the methods of production and handling of milk are in general good.

Meat.

Meat inspection is carried out by the Sanitary Inspector. There is no public abattoir in the district, but there are three private slaughter houses.

During the year the following work was done:

	Total number of carcasses inspected	Number entirely condemned	No. of cases where part of carcase or organs condemned
Beasts	403	—	36
Calves	10	—	—
Sheep	450	—	—
Pigs	360	—	27

Number of prosecutions Nil.

Adulteration : The working of the Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928, in the district is carried out by the County Council.

Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food : Carried out by the County Council.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

I am happy to be able to report, that in contrast with the previous year, 1937 was a normal one in respect of the incidence of infectious diseases.

The number of cases of scarlet fever fell from 58 in 1936 to 13 in the period under review. There were no deaths from the disease.

Diphtheria cases declined from 29 (with 4 deaths) in 1936 to 16 (with 2 deaths) in 1937. I cannot help regarding sixteen cases of Diphtheria as being far too many for a district the size of Darfield; in immunisation we have the means at hand to stamp out the disease altogether and to make a case of diphtheria as rare in its occurrence as is a case of smallpox. In such a desirable circumstance not only should we save lives, but also we should be preventing the occurrence of distressing "cardiac cripples."

Cancer: The number of deaths from cancer and other malignant disease was 5, a decline from 9 in 1936 and 17 in 1935.

Tuberculosis: There were only 3 new cases of tuberculosis notified during the year, compared with 4 in 1936. Again there were 3 deaths from this disease.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN
TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1937.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths.
Smallpox ... ..	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	13	13	...
Diphtheria	16	16	2
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	1	...	...
Puerperal Fever ... ..	...	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	...	1
Pneumonia	13	...	...
Erysipelas	4	...	...

TUBERCULOSIS DURING THE YEAR 1937.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respirat'y		Non- Respirat'y		Respirat'y		Non- Respirat'y	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0
1	1	...	...	...	...	...
5
15	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...
25	1	...	...	...
35
45	1	...	...	...
55	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
65 and upwards
Totals	2	...	1	...	2	...	1	...

